



NEW AND REVISED PRICE LIST OF POPULAR PACKETS.

All stamps warranted genuine. If necessary to send postage stamps in payment, send only 1 and 2 cent ones. All orders promptly filled. Be sure and give full address every time you write.

THE UNION PACKETS.

NON-DUPLICATE.

No. 1	contains 45 Foreign stamps.	10
2	contains 7 stamps, including Brazil, C. S. A., Cuba, etc.	10
3	contains 13 unused stamps.	10
4	contains 10 U. S. Officials.	15
5	contains 55 Foreign stamps.	15
6	contains 20 unused stamps.	15
7	contains 12 stamps, including Newfoundland, Cape, etc.	15
8	contains 15 obsolete U. S.	15
9	contains 8 stamps, including Mexico, Chili, Straits, etc.	20
10	contains 15 British Colonials, including Natal, Hong Kong, Bahamas, etc.	20

The above packets contain 200 stamps, all different. Sent postpaid for \$1.25.

THE EAGLE PACKETS.

NON-DUPLICATE—25 CENT SERIES.

No. 1	contains 100 Foreign postage stamps.	25
2	contains 50 good stamps, such as Norway, Hungary, Belgium, Russia, etc.	25
3	contains 40 stamps, such as Victoria, Luxembourg, etc.	25
4	contains 35 stamps, such as Jamaica, Portugal, Queensland, etc.	25
5	contains 30 stamps, such as Cape of Good Hope, Egypt, Dutch Indies, etc.	25
6	contains 25 stamps, such as Turkey, Cuba, etc.	25
7	contains 20 stamps, such as Ceylon, Chili, Bermuda, etc.	25
8	contains 15 stamps, such as West Australia, French Colonies, British Guiana, etc.	25
9	contains 10 stamps, such as rare Cuba, Porto Rico, etc.	25
10	contains 5 stamps, such as St. Domingo, Guatemala, etc.	25

The above packets contain 330 stamps, all different. Sent postpaid for \$2.00.

THE ACME PACKETS.

No. 1	contains 100 Foreign stamps.	25
2	contains 50 scarcer ones, such as Sweden, Russia, India, etc.	25
3	contains 25 obsolete stamps, including Austrian Italy, Saxony, Egypt, etc.	25

4	contains 10 Rare stamps, including Egypt, Grenada, Hong Kong, etc.	25
5	contains 12 South American stamps, including Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, U. S. Colombia, etc.	25
6	contains 10 unused stamps, including Azores, Madeira, Mauritius, etc.	25
7	contains 30 unused stamps, such as Servia, Greece, Saxony, Turkey, etc.	25
8	contains 12 British Provincials, from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and obsolete Canada.	25
9	contains 15 Official stamps, including Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Germany, etc.	25
10	contains 12 Official stamps, including Egypt, Iceland, India, etc.	25
11	contains 150 varieties of Foreign stamps.	5
12	contains 75 scarcer ones, including Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, etc.	50
13	contains 25 stamps, such as Chili, Baden, Hanover, West Australia, etc.	50
14	contains 30 British Colonials, including Mauritius, Lagos, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Gold Coast, etc.	50
15	contains 1500 well assorted European stamps.	50
16	contains 500 extra assorted stamps.	50
17	contains 75 well assorted British Colonials.	50
18	contains 100 U. S. stamps, including Postage, Envelope, Revenue, Unpaid, Official.	75
19	contains 125 scarce stamps, including Heligoland, Servia, Jamaica, India, Canada Registration, etc.	1.00
20	contains 30 stamps from Central and South America, such as Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, Uruguay, etc.	1.00
21	contains 40 stamps from Polynesia, including Labuan, Fiji, Queensland, Victoria, Sarawak, etc.	1.00
22	contains 1,000 Foreign postage stamps.	25.00

None of the above packets contain duplicates, except Nos. 15, 16 and 17.

HALF DIME PACKETS.

Each packet contains 15 varieties.

The catalogue prices of stamps in them run from 15 to 35 cents. The packets are not all alike, but about 150 varieties of stamps are well assorted through them. Just the packets for the boys to buy to trade on. Selling by hundreds every week. Try them once.

1 Packet 5c., 4 for 15c., 12 for 40c., 100 for \$3.00.

Postage one cent extra on each order.

Address **GEO. H. RICHMOND,**
210 Ninth Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

FALSE MUSTACHES, GOATEES, ETC.



Here you are boys. Just the thing for a little harmless masquerading. They are made from real hair. Mustaches 10c. each, 3 for 25c. Goatees 6c. each, 3 for 15c. Full Beards or Side Whiskers 75c. each Can have Red Gray Brown or Black W. Simpson 269 W. 84th St. N. Y.

GRAB THIS CHANCE,

MINERAL COLLECTORS!

The following specimens are not a lot of old chestnuts, but DUPLICATES from one of the best MINERAL COLLECTIONS in the U. S.

Any specimen mailed free on receipt of price.

Amethyst.....	25	Monazite.....	10
Asbestos.....	25	Moss Agate.....	15
Azurite, Large.....	50	Obsidian.....	15
" Smaller.....	15	Opal, Good Colors.....	15
Beryl.....	15	Petrified Wood.....	20
Black Mica.....	10	Pirates.....	20
Cairngorm.....	15	Quartz Crystals.....	10
Calcite.....	10	Rutile.....	10
Carnelian.....	20	Serpentine.....	15
Copper Ore.....	20	Sharks' Teeth, Petrified	25
Essonite.....	15	Silver Ore.....	25
Epidote.....	15	Staurolite.....	15
Franklinite.....	10	Tephroite.....	10
Garnet, Very Large.....	75	Topaz.....	15
" Transparent.....	10	" Spanish.....	15
" Drilled by Indians	10	Turquoise.....	20
Hiddenite.....	50	Tourmaline, Black.....	10
Iron Ore.....	15	" Brown.....	20
Jade.....	15	Trilobite.....	20
Labradorite.....	10	Zincite.....	10
Litharge.....	15	Zircons.....	10
Malachite.....	15		

Address **MYERS & CO., 61 1/2 Patchen Ave.,**
Brooklyn, N. Y.

THE WORLD MOVES!

A Great Invention which interests Architects, Builders and Property Owners.

THE CLIMAX RAIL

For Sliding Doors.

It is of simple and durable construction. The door runs smoothly and without noise. It can be put down in old buildings as well as new, without disturbing paint or casings; it is level with the floor and

OFFERS NO OBSTRUCTION

to the moving of furniture. No danger of persons tripping over it in walking or dancing, and what CANNOT be said of any other rail made,

THE DOOR CANNOT GET OFF THE TRACK.

It is made of polished brass, giving a finished appearance to the doorway, and it is **CHEAP.**

Every Architect should specify these rails. Every Builder should use them. Every Property Owner should take out the old style and put these in their place. Write at once for full descriptive Circular and Price List to

THE CLIMAX RAIL CO.,

184 Water Street, New York.

Don't fail to mention PLAIN TALK.

FALSE MUSTACHE any color 10c. 3 for 25c. Goatees 6c. 3 for 15c. Side Whiskers or Full Beard 75c. each. Can't be told from real. Used for theatricals, minstrels, and by Detectives, etc. **W. S. SIMPSON, 269 W. 84th St., N. Y.**

BOOK ON WATCH REPAIRING, &c., 124 pages. Sent postpaid for 34 cents in stamps.
WM. LEHR, Bremen, Ind.

AGENTS' NAME DIRECTORY.

The following parties have sent us ten cents to have their names inserted in this directory and would be pleased to receive samples of papers, merchandise, catalogues, price lists, etc.

Names inserted in this department, 10c. for 1 insertion or 3 months for 25 cents.

J. H. H. Boyd, Cagle P. O., Tenn. ✓
C. R. Crittenden, East Poultney, Vt. ✓
C. L. Royer, Sterling, Rice Co., Kans. ✓
Chas. Asplen, Fairview, Utah. ✓
C. B. Edmonds, Glen Gardner, N. J. ✓
Arthur W. Fillmore, Lyndville, N. S. ✓
Dr. Wm. Boardman, Gordon, Neb. ✓
Henry J. Armstrong, Box 141, St. Andrews Bay, Fla. ✓
N. D. Jacobson, Nelsonville, Wis. ✓
R. W. E. Hayes, Galva, Ill. ✓
Ole Hanson, Monson, Me. ✓
Arthur M. Lazier, Box 240, Morgantown, W. Va. ✓
J. V. Ramirez, Box No. 1, Saltillo, Mex. ✓
E. F. Vandiver, Weaverville, N. C. ✓
O. K. Harlin, Salt Lick P. O., Tenn. ✓
C. N. Patterson, Salk Lick P. O., Tenn. ✓
Thomas Patterson, Flippin P. O., Monroe Co., Ky. ✓
L. O. Barcroft, Iredell, Bosque Co., Tex. ✓
Chas. V. A. Walsh, 14 Howard Pl., Jersey City, N. J. ✓
Eugene A. Brown, Florence, Arizona.
W. A. White, Union, Fulton Co., Ark.
A. C. Glenzer, South Kankana, Wis.
Mrs. Anna E. Aldridge, Neodesha, Kans.
H. J. Armstrong, Box 386, Niles, Ohio. ✓

FOR SALE.—Five Shares of the Capital Stock of the Plain Talk Publishing Company.
L. D. HOSFORD, 66 Beekman St., N. Y.

—AMERICAN—

PHILATELIC PRESS DIRECTORY

FOR 1888.

Work on the above is now well under way and advance orders are solicited.

—PRICE, 25 CENTS.—

It will be much more elaborate than the 1887 edition, and will contain, in addition to the complete list of all American philatelic publications, a supplementary list, as complete as it is possible to make it, of European papers. Also interesting articles on early American papers, as well as other features of interest.

Those who order at once, sending 25 cents for each copy desired, will have their names given in the "Personal Directory," which will be one of the features of the work, thus: Paul E. Smith, Tarrytown, N. Y., Collector of U. S. only. John Q. Lawrence, Ontario, Ohio, dealer; approval sheets a specialty.

Write out what you want, not exceeding eight words beside name and address, for each copy ordered.

Address **GEO. H. RICHMOND,**
P. O. Box 3259. 5 Beekman Street, N. Y.

BOYS AND GIRLS!

SOMETHING FOR YOU!

THE BOSS SLATE PENCIL SHARPENER,

THE BEST THING EVER GOT UP FOR SHARPENING SLATE PENCILS.

We want you to act as our Agent in your place. The one selling the most SHARPENERS between now and May 1st, 1888, will receive a

SPLENDID NICKEL PLATED MAGIC LANTERN WITH SIXTY VIEWS.

Size of Lantern, 7x9x10 inches. Send 6 cts. for sample Sharpener, Prices to Agents, Circular of other Prizes, etc.

A. H. BARROWS,

52 Bellevue Street, HARTFORD, CONN.
Mention PLAIN TALK.

PLAIN TALK

VOL. VI.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 5.

THE NEW DYNAMITE BAKING POWDER.

Editor "PLAIN TALK:"

Enclosed please find a two-pound box of my wonderful Dynamite Baking Powder, also 5,869 letters and two postal cards from those who have used the same with great success. I have given away 5,871 trial packages of the powder, and in every instance the receivers were so fully convinced of my great honesty that they gratefully returned the packages by express at my expense, and in the warmest terms recommended *me* to use the valuable mixture, assuring me that they would unhesitatingly accept my word for it that all was just as represented, and that they would not for one moment think of accepting such a costly gift from one who was actually suffering for the necessities of life himself. The San Francisco Daily *Hammer* was so enthusiastic over its merits that it published in fifteen consecutive numbers the following report of a great professor's lecture:

" * * * I regard the Dynamite Baking Powder as superior to 'Rough on Rats,' or any other Baking Powder, for the following reasons:

"1. It contains no water, which is not advisable in articles of food, and unnecessary, if it is not positively injurious.

"2. It evolves more carbosuisidiotic acid gas, and is therefore more efficient.

"3. It gives a heavier and more wildly flavored dough, owing to the facts stated in 1 and 2 conclusive."

I am yours,

PROF. Q. Q. DOORMOUSE,
Sup't Street Sewers, S. F."

Extract from Lecture on
Jack Horner's Patent Sewer
Trap, given at the Oak St.
M. E. Church, May 30, 1861.

dec-6-15t



The above facts, from such a high authority are so convincing, that I need not add more. If you have so much baking powder on hand that you can't give this a trial, kindly hand it to some poor fatherless orphan boy and watch the tears of gratitude well down the little fellow's dirty face.

Yours, in aid
of suffering

humanity throughout the civilized world,

GUNWAD.

Special Offer—PLAIN TALK ONE YEAR 25c.—See Notice on p. 6.

· PLAIN TALK ·

PLAIN TALK PASTIMES.

GAME OF LETTERS.—Make a number of alphabets on small squares of cardboard, one letter on each square. Then select the letters required to spell some word you have fixed in your mind ; mix them up and hand them to another player to put in order, simply telling him the initial and last letter of the word he is to find.

THE TOOTHPICK EXPLOSION.—Take six common wooden toothpicks and lay three of them across the remaining three, and form them into a lattice braid, taking care that none of them breaks; then take a match and light one of the toothpicks on one of the corners. When the flame burns to where one pick bears on the other the tension caused by the braiding is released and the toothpicks will fly upward, sometimes as high as the ceiling.

TO MAKE A BIRD SEEM AS DEAD.—Take any bird out of a cage, and lay it on a table ; then wave a small feather over its eyes, and it will appear as dead ; but as soon as you take the feather away it will revive again. Let it lay hold of the stem part of the feather with its feet, and it will twist and turn about just like a parrot. You may also roll it about on the table any way you like.

TO TELL A MARKED QUARTER OUT OF THREE.—Having held two twenty-five cent pieces in your closed hand for a minute or two, you ask that a marked one be put in the hand with them, while you turn your head away ; the three shuffled together and your hand closed, you undertake to inform the company which is the marked one, and do so by the feeling, as the marked one is sure to be colder than the two which had been warmed in your hand.

WATER CLIMBING INTO A TUMBLER.—This is a very taking experiment and easy to perform. Take a saucer half filled with water and set it on the table ; then take a small piece of crumpled paper, light it with a match and put it into a tumbler, and immediately, while the paper is still burning, set the tumbler into the water, *mouth down*. Every drop of the water will rapidly leave the saucer and creep up into the glass, to the astonishment and delight of the company.

THE MAGIC GUESS.—This trick is somewhat similar to THE MAGIC ANSWER in our last month's paper, but differs in some very essential features. Like that, it must be known to only two of the company. One of the parties to the trick goes out of the room, while the other remains and asks any person in the company to select a spot on the carpet. The confederate in the room should have a cane or stick of some sort with which to point to different spots on the carpet. The party leaving the room, on going out, should *place his hand on the door* in such a manner as to leave a certain number of the fingers of that hand visible to the indoor confederate to indicate how many times he is expected to point to a wrong spot before pointing to the right one. For instance : A goes out of the room and on opening the door with his right hand, leaves 4 fingers visible to his partner B, the thumb being turned on the other side of the door out of sight. B then understands that he is to point to four wrong spots before pointing to the right one selected by one of the company. If the exposure of the fingers is done with a natural movement, nobody will solve what seems to be a deep mystery, as the number may be changed every time.

PRICE OF BACK NUMBERS OF PLAIN TALK.

Vol. 1. No. 1,	.25	Vol. 4. No. 1,	.25
" " " 2,	.05	" " " 2,	.25
" " " 3,	.10	" " " 3,	.05
" " " 4,	.05	" " " 4,	.05
" " " 5,	.05	" " " 5,	.05
" " " 6,	.25	" " " 6,	.05
" 2. " 1,	.25	" 5. " 1,	.10
" " " 2,	.25	" " " 2,	.05
" " " 3,	.05	" " " 3,	.15
" " " 4,	out.	" " " 4,	.15
" " " 5,	.25	" " " 5,	out.
" " " 6,	.05	" " " 6,	.05
" 3. " 1,	out.	" 6. " 1,	.05
" " " 2,	out.	" " " 2,	.05
" " " 3,	.25	" " " 3,	.05
" " " 4,	.05	" " " 4,	.05
" " " 5,	.05	" " " 5,	.05
" " " 6,	.25		

Special Offer—PLAIN TALK ONE YEAR 25c.—See Notice on p. 6.

· PLAIN TALK ·



G. WASHINGTON.

OLD Washington had a tough young son
Who always looked for fight,
But when the old man showed himself
The son got out of sight.
He strolled out in the yard one day
To see what he could see;
His face lit up as he espied
The old man's cherry tree.
His little axe he got; quoth he,
"I'll have some fun with Pop;"
He hied him to the cherry tree
And soon began to chop.
But very soon the tree lay flat
And George began to grin,
Then changed to that of mortal fear—
(His pants were very thin.)
And as he stood in silence mute,
Gazing upon the wreck,
From the ground he was quickly slung
And suspended by the neck.
"Who chopped down my cherry tree?"
His father in wrath did cry;
"I," said George, "with the family axe;
I cannot tell a lie."
"What d'yer spouse I care for a lie?
You can't tell a lie," said he,
"But can go in the yard, you rascal,
And cut down my cherry tree."
Then his voice was heard in the woodshed,
"I'll teach you to cut and hack;
I wouldn't care for a hundred lies
Had I my cherry tree back."

CONN.

ODE ON THE TOBOG.

A DUDE from Androscoggin,
Arrayed in skin-tight "toggin,"
Went to slide
Upon the hillside
With his new-made bride,
And they settled upon the toboggan.
But soon he was sore disgusted;
The "togs" for which he got trusted
Were so weak
In the seat
That he beat a retreat,
His trousers were awfully "busted."

CONN.

PLAIN TALK TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. DECREPIT DUSINBERRY, Hoboken, N. J., writes:

EDITOR PLAIN TALK:

Sir—I am a constant reader of your paper. Can you tell me how to get rich?

Mr. Dusin—We are working on this thing now, and trying our best to find the correct solution to the problem. We report progress. We will let you know something definite later on. Keep on reading PLAIN TALK for a while. One thing will help you, however—move out of Hoboken.

"THIRSTY JOE," New York City, writes:

EDITOR PLAIN TALK:

Sir—My sister takes your paper and I read it every month. Will you tell me where I can buy the biggest glass of bier for five cents? How is my handwritin'?

The editor has just sent his assistant out to investigate this matter; will ascertain and let you know soon. That is, if the assistant comes home in a fit condition to relate his experience. About your handwriting, let us say we are awfully glad you tell us it is your *hand* writing, as we were laboring under the delusion that it was executed with your foot!

PLAININGS.

THE motto of the wood cutter.—*Vidi*.

HOW to make a long story short.—Send it to the editor.

THE street laborer ought to be a satisfied man.
—He can take his pick in this world.

A FRIEND of ours says when he feels in need of sound sleep he takes a trip on a Fall River boat.

"HAS George proposed yet, Mary?"
"Not yet, dear Mimmaw, but I have reason to believe that he will soon."
"Why so?"
"Because he asked me which of the various soothing syrups I thought was the best for children."

Special Offer—PLAIN TALK ONE YEAR 25c.—See Notice on p. 6.

PLAIN TALK.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH AT 61½ PATCHEN AVENUE,
BROOKLYN, N. Y., BY

PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING COMPANY,

(INCORPORATED.)

WM. J. MYERS, EDITOR,

E. VAN SCHAACK, MANAGER.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

IN ADVANCE.

PER ANNUM, 50 CENTS. | SIX MONTHS, 30 CENTS.
To Foreign Countries, 75 Cents per annum.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 MO.	2 MOS.	3 MOS.	6 MOS.	1 YR.
One Inch, . . .	\$1.00	\$1.85	\$2.65	\$5.15	\$9.35
Two Inches, . .	1.85	3.60	5.15	9.35	17.90
Three Inches, .	2.65	5.15	7.45	14.10	26.65
Five Inches, . .	4.40	8.40	12.20	23.00	44.00
One Column, . .	8.00	15.20	21.65	41.00	78.00
One Page, . . .	21.65	41.00	60.00	113.00	215.00

Advertisements to occupy less than one inch space will be charged 10 cents per line, and must be paid for in advance.

ADVERTISING AGENT, GEO. H. RICHMOND, No. 5 BECKMAN ST., NEW YORK, TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN RELATION TO ADVERTISING MUST BE ADDRESSED.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1888.

SPECIAL OFFER.

Until June 1st subscriptions to Plain Talk, without Premium, will be received at 25 Cents per annum. New and highly interesting departments introduced this month, and the paper placed within the reach of every youth in the land. The cheapest good paper in America to-day. Subscribe now. Twenty-five cents a year in advance, only until June 1st; after that 50 cents.

IN keeping with our policy of past years to add new attractions to PLAIN TALK as we deemed it expedient, without previous notice, thus giving our subscribers a pleasant surprise occasionally, we added last month a department of PASTIMES for the home, and this month a department of MINERALOGY, contributed to by persons learned in the study, which cannot fail to interest all our readers, old and young. AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY is a fascinating art that is attracting new followers and devotees every day. Cameras and outfits for producing excellent photos are sold very cheap and our new department devoted to it will undoubtedly prove decidedly interesting to a large proportion of our readers. Items of interest pertaining to any of these new departments are solicited from any and all our friends.

PLAIN TALK'S PRIZE PROBLEMS.

PLAIN TALK'S Prize Problems are open to anybody and everybody. Any person receiving a Sample Copy of the paper is entitled to compete for the prize offered in the current number. Regular subscribers, however, have the advantage of competing twelve times a year, or during the continuance of their subscription, with the chance, of course, of winning something worth many times the cost of their subscription.

When two or more correct answers to a problem are received, the winner will be decided by a hat drawing.

The names of the winners and all competitors sending the correct answer will be published monthly, and all persons (not subscribers) sending the correct answers, who are unlucky at the drawing, will be offered an opportunity of subscribing to PLAIN TALK at the reduced price of Thirty Cents per annum.

All answers must be in by the 5th of the month, and any person (not a subscriber) wishing a copy of the next number containing a solution of problem and the names of winners, must send with his answer 5 cents in stamps for the copy.

THE WINNERS.

THE winners of prizes for our February problem were W. J. Graydon, Streetsville, Ont., who won first prize, and Preston Yerrington, Providence, R. I., second. Only one other person succeeded in solving the problem, Albert Johannsen, State Centre, Iowa.

The correct answer and the five different weights with which a person can weigh any number of pounds from 1 to 121, are 1, 3, 9, 27, 81.

PRIZE PUZZLE FOR MARCH.

PLACE the numbers from 1 to 16 inclusive in a square, so that each of the four perpendicular columns, each horizontal line, and each diagonal line from corner to corner, will foot up 34. Likewise, if the whole square be divided into four smaller ones, the numbers in each square will add up 34.

We will give free one year's subscription to PLAIN TALK, and one Gaskell's Compendium (together worth one dollar and fifty cents), to the person sending the correct answer to the above puzzle, and complying with the requirement at top of page, as to enclosing five cents for copy of paper.

If two or more correct answers are received, two prizes will be awarded, the second for PLAIN TALK for six months and Gaskell's Compendium.

DON'T fail to take notice of Special Subscription offer.

Special Offer—PLAIN TALK ONE YEAR 25c.—See Notice on p. 6.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY.

CONDUCTED BY C. RAE SMITH.

IN the early days of picture-making by the agency of light, beginning with the publication of the discovery of the daguerreotype in 1839, the calotype in 1840, and kindred processes during the decade ending in the year 1850, amateurs in the art were scarcely known. The long, tedious and delicate processes upon the silver plate, iodised paper, waxed paper, etc., as then practiced, were not only imperfectly understood, but were, as a necessary consequence, uncertain in their results, requiring an intimate knowledge of chemistry, a multiplicity of apparatus, and were in themselves of a nature so complicated that the slight chance of success offered but little encouragement to anyone who might from a love of the beautiful be induced to practice the art as a pastime for leisure hours.

When Scott Archer, in the year 1850, brought before the public what is familiarly known as the wet collodion process, a new interest was awakened; hundreds with a mistaken idea of its simplicity invested in apparatus and bloomed forth as amateurs in the "Black Art." Black it undoubtedly was at that period, for fingers, clothes, in short everything touched by its devotees testified to this fact. After many trials it was found that expectations were scarcely realized. In spite of the efforts of inventors the cameras were clumsy, complicated unwieldy affairs at the best. The manipulations of "development" and "fixing"—with all the inconveniences of liquid chemicals in the field—were necessary immediately after each exposure. The novelty, therefore, soon wore off, and gradually the ranks of the amateurs began to dwindle. When the gelatino-bromide process was perfected in the year 1878 an amateur photographer was again comparatively unknown.

It was at this period that a new era in photography was inaugurated. With the advent of the dry plate process there was a renaissance also of the amateur. Photography once more became a popular amusement to those of an artistic or scientific turn of mind.

Soon the gelatine dry plates were manufactured upon a commercial basis, inexpensive in price, and of a rapidity and quality never before equalled by any other process.

Unlike the many different methods that preceded it, the operations were simple, cleanly, and gave

withal most satisfactory results—even in the hands of the merest tyro. At the present time there is scarcely a city in England or the United States without its club of photographic amateurs, while many of the larger cities boast of several associations of this character, meeting at stated times for the exhibition and criticism of the members' work and for the diffusion of knowledge and interchange of ideas and experiences upon this subject.

Some conception of the improvement the modern process is in comparison to that of less than half a century ago, may be had when we consider that the first portraits taken necessitated dusting over the face, hair, etc., with a white powder, then placing the sitter with eyes closed in strong sunlight for twenty minutes or more, the period of time required to make an impression upon the plate. Now! How great the march of improvement—a fully exposed picture may be taken at night in a fraction of a second by means of the magnesium flash light.

In the year 1838, on the announcement of M. Daguerre's discovery, Prof. Samuel F. B. Morse, at that time a professional portrait painter, had just completed his invention of the electric telegraph. He went to Paris in order to place it before the Institute of France. The two savants exchanged visits, but unfortunately for Daguerre, during his examination of Morse's invention, his own laboratory, together with all its contents, were consumed by fire. A short time subsequent to Prof. Morse's return, Daguerre's process was published to the world. Prof. Morse at once secured a copy and after numerous experiments eventually produced the first Daguerreotype portrait. Another experimentalist contemporary with Morse was Prof. John W. Draper, who became an enthusiast upon the subject, and made many improvements whereby the rapidity of the plate was increased.

Great advances have also been made in the apparatus necessary to the art, from the primitive camera obscura invented by Baptiste Porta, in the year 1650, with its simple convex lens, to the marvels of optical science and mechanical ingenuity of the present day, of which a description will be given in the next article.

MR. MORTIMER ALLEN, member of the Brooklyn Camera Club, has been spending several days at Niagara Falls, securing views of the great cataract in its Winter garb. Mr. Allen is an enthusiastic artist, and has a large collection of very fine views—all his own work.

· PLAIN TALK ·

DEPARTMENT OF MINERALOGY.

CONDUCTED BY FRANK MYERS.

IT is believed that Long Island was deposited, in its present position, by glaciers and nothing substantiates that theory more than the fact that but a few months ago a young and enthusiastic mineralogist unearthed near Prospect Park a boulder of Labradorite, which, when cut and polished in slabs exhibited the same beautiful chatoyancy that is seen in the same material taken direct from the coast of Labrador.

FEW collectors know that a very fine variety of gem garnet is being constantly picked up along the shores of Rivers in Arizona. One fine stone, picked from a lot lately received by a New York dealer, after being cut and polished brought fifty dollars. The color of this gem, it is needless to say, was almost that of a spinel ruby. All those having friends or relatives in Arizona, would do well to post them.

A GREAT GEM MINE.—In the month of July, 1879, Mr. Wm. E. Hidden, of New York City, visited Alexander County, North Carolina, for the purpose of prospecting for platinum, a large supply of which was thought to be necessary at that time to the practical solution of the Electric light problem. While there his attention was called to a local collection of minerals, in which he saw a few pieces of beryl, which exhibited a very decided tint of emerald. This led him to believe that gems existed in that region and at a later period changed the object of his search from platinum to precious stones. In August of that year several gem pockets were uncovered, and of such productiveness that remunerative sales were made from them before the end of the year.

In four of these pockets, the new emerald green spodumene, *i. e.*, Hiddenite, was discovered. This gem was a surprise to the scientific world, and the attention it has attracted in scientific writings and otherwise is well known. It is the only strictly American gem and has not been found outside of these mines. Beside the Hiddenite, the mines produce the Emerald, Quartz crystals, Rutile, Beryl, Tourmaline, etc., etc.

GEM RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY GEO. F. KUNZ, OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

DIAMONDS have occasionally been found at a number of localities in the United States, but as yet at no place has more than an occasional crystal occurred, never enough to warrant any extended mining for them. The diamond found at Manchester, opposite Richmond, Virginia, weighing after it was cut over 10 Karats, is worthy of mention. An occasional stone has also been found at the Portis mine, North Carolina, Hall County, Georgia, and with platinum in Oregon. They are also reported from Idaho, San Juan County, Colorado, and from Cherokee Flat, and several other localities in Butte County, California. A beautiful crystal that cut a remarkably fine three-eighths Karat stone, was found near San Francisco. Two crystals weighing over two Karats each are on exhibition at a jeweler's in Indianapolis, and are said to have been found in Indiana. Within the past year a diamond is reported to have been found in Missouri by a hunter who was stopping to take a drink of water by a small brook. This diamond weighs $2\frac{1}{2}$ Karats, and by some experienced judges is pronounced of Brazilian origin, so that the occurrence is somewhat doubtful. Many experienced geologists hold to the opinion that so many of the associations of the diamond are present in North Carolina that they have hopes of their being found there. The garnet districts of Arizona and New Mexico may also be looked upon as favorable for the occurrence of this gem.

No estimate can be put upon the amount found. Many reported finds of diamonds of large value in the newspapers are either myths or are based on the finding of rock crystal or even glass, and a diamond value attached. In the case of the Missouri diamond, mentioned above, it would be possible for diamonds to occur and be for a long time overlooked in a district inhabited or frequented by no one who really knows a diamond in its rough state, whereas rock crystal is often mistaken for diamond.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED.—Short sketches relating to mineral curiosities, important finds, finds in unusual places, noted sales of rare gems, descriptions of collections, and items of all sorts relating to minerals and of interest to mineral collectors, are solicited from our patrons and readers, which will be duly credited.

Special Offer—PLAIN TALK ONE YEAR 25c.—See Notice on p. 6.

PROFITABLE PHILATELIC POINTS

MR. FREDERICK KNOCKE, an active member of the American Philatelic Association, died in St. Louis on January 4th.

THE two-cent green stamp, notwithstanding the vicious abuse it has received, still holds its head up as high as ever.

ENTIRE envelopes, because of their bulky nature, will never be regarded as valuable to collect by collectors in general, and hence their status among philatelists cannot be held up.

MR. JOHN S. BIXBY, of Decatur, Ill., paid his respects to his many friends in the stamp trade in the shape of a very pretty illuminated card, one of which we take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of.

MR. C. H. MEKEEL'S account of his week's trip narrated in his January 1st *Philatelic Journal of America*, indicates that the grass, had it been in season, would have had no chance to grow under his feet.

THE pot calling the kettle black is illustrated once more by the *Stamp of Denver*, which constitutes itself as a critic of the literary composition in philatelic papers generally.

MR. T. C. WATKINS is preparing a volume entitled "Selections of Philatelic Poetry," and considering the prominence of the author we bespeak for it a ready and active demand among philatelists.

NOTHING succeeds like success. The *American Philatelist*, only a few months ago a disgrace to the association of which it is the organ, now gives character and power to that organization, and every philatelic paper is praising it where before they cut it to pieces with their criticisms. The Association too is constantly increasing in membership.

THE MANHATTAN JOURNAL, edited and published by Harry J. Calvert, New York, made its appearance for the first time in January last, and yet it has the cheek to start with Vol. 4, No. 1. It is purported to be the successor of the once proud *Empire State Philatelist*, now dead, killed by Calvert, but the only evident reason of its birth is to finish out the unexpired advertising contracts and subscriptions of the *Empire State*, rather than refund the money.

THE HISTORY OF THE STAMPS OF TURKEY.*—V.

BY G. A. CONSTANTINIDES.

POST CARDS.

20 paras—Purple.

The post card issued in 1880 with frame, bear a stamp of 20 paras on right.

In 1880 the color of the 20 paras of the stamps of 1876 was changed and a new stamp with error appeared, both perforated 11½.

20 paras—Rose and black.

1 piastres—Blue, or olive blue and black.

VARIETIES.

Unperforated.

20 paras—Rose and black.

1 piastre—Blue " "

The error of piastres was corrected in 1881 and followed by a new stamp perforated 13½.

5 paras—Olive and black.

1 piastre—Blue " "

VARIETIES.

(a.) Error, piastrf, piasti, piaste instead of piastre.
1 piast?—Blue and black.

(b.) The same unperforated.
1 piast?—Blue and black.

At the end of 1881 a set of stamps from 1876—1881 appeared, unperforated.

5 paras—Olive and black.

10 " —Black and lilac.

20 " —Purple, brown and green.

1 piastre—Blue and black.

2 " —Black and yellow bistre.

5 " —Red and blue.

25 " —Wine-red and rose.

The post cards issued at this time were printed on chamois, the rest were like to the anterior.

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[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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The Monocular Duplex; or, Artist Camera.

C. R. SMITH'S PATENT.

THE only Camera in the world that enables the operator to see the picture non-inverted the full size of the plate, the very instant of making the exposure. Can be accurately focussed, dispenses with Tripod, Focussing Cloth and Carrying Case; Leather covered; no unsightly metal work; ready at a second's notice, and will carry eight to ten glass plates, time exposure attachments, etc.



PRICE, with Rectilinear Lens, for 4 1/4 x 6 1/2, with one Double Holder, \$75.00; 3 1/4 x 4 1/4, \$60.00. In Roll Holder Camera, 48 film negatives can be taken without changing the spools. Price, 4 1/4 x 6 1/2, \$95.00; 3 1/4 x 4 1/4, \$75.00. Send stamp for illustrated catalogue. Sample Photograph, 15 cents. Ordinary Cameras from \$3.50 upward. Mention Plain Talk.

E. W. SMITH & CO., 42 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK.



FUN FOR EVERYBODY.
SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW.

the string of the tie and the word *Rats* will present itself and knock them silly. There are a number of different jokes such as "Too fresh," "No flies on that," "Go hire a hall," "Cheese it," "Rats," etc. It is a capital joke and will be fully appreciated by any one upon whom it has been perpetrated. There is no machinery about it. It looks just like any neck tie. A cord is attached to the end of each tie and by sliding your hand under your vest or letting the cord hang out through a button hole you can very easily pull it. When your victim sees the joke let it go and it will then go back into place.

AGENTS CAN MAKE A BARREL OF MONEY SELLING THE JOKERS' SCARFS.

They are just out and sell like hot cakes. Everybody wants one and everybody will have one. No talking necessary. You cannot buy an ordinary scarf of as fine quality as this at the price we offer you this at. We have them in many fancy patterns, good tasty scarfs, teck shape, high grade in style, quality and workmanship. None better for the money in all America.

1 Sample by Mail, Post-paid,	\$.40
3 " " " " " "	1.10
1 Dozen by Express,	3.50
3 " " " " " "	9.75
1 Gross by Express,	36.00

Address all orders to MYERS & CO., 61 1/2 PATCHEN AV., BROOKLYN, N. Y.



Here you are boys. Just the thing for a little harmless masquerading. They are made from real hair. Mustaches 10c. each, 3 for 25c. Goatees 6c. each, 3 for 15c. Full Beards or Side Whiskers 75c. each Can have Red Gray Brown or Black W. Simpson 263 W. 54th St. N. Y.

REMNANTS—Silk and Velvet Ribbons, from two yards and upwards in length, and of different widths and all the fashionable colors, adapted for bonnet strings, neckwear, dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc. A decided and unprecedented bargain. Order early as they are selling fast. Price, per box, 35c.
MYERS & CO., 61 1/2 Patchen Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

\$80 A MONTH and expenses paid any active person to distribute circulars and sell goods, or \$40 a month and expenses to distribute circulars only; salaries paid monthly. Samples of our goods and contract free. Send 10c. for postage, packing, etc.; we mean business. **UNION SUPPLY CO., 137 W. Quincy Street, Chicago, Ills.**

MAGIC Trick Cards.—"The Wizard's Pack" can be used in any game, such as euchre, casino, cribbage, etc., and at same time those knowing the secret can perform dozens of astounding tricks. Book of instructions with each pack. By mail, 35c.
MYERS & CO., 61 1/2 Patchen Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"RATS!!"

THE NEWEST, CLEANEST AND MOST IRRESISTIBLE SQUELCHER OF STALE JOKES.

The Jokers' Neck Scarf.

The most original and laughable novelty of the age. First out and the best practical joke of the season. Our illustration gives a very good idea of this new novelty. These beautiful scarfs are made of fine quality silk in the latest patterns of the season, in both light and dark shades, giving the wearer not only a novelty but a very dressy tie. The jokers' scarf is the latest, greatest, and most amusing idea evolved in this age of "chestnuts," old "gags," stale jokes and trip ups. Do not let the boys get ahead of you. Crush them in the act of telling a stale yarn and get the laugh on them. When they are right in the middle of a story just pull it and knock them silly. There are a number of different jokes such as "Too fresh," "No flies on that," "Go hire a hall," "Cheese it," "Rats," etc. It is a capital joke and will be fully appreciated by any one upon whom it has been perpetrated. There is no machinery about it. It looks just like any neck tie. A cord is attached to the end of each tie and by sliding your hand under your vest or letting the cord hang out through a button hole you can very easily pull it. When your victim sees the joke let it go and it will then go back into place.

PHOTOS. 20 lovely full length actresses photos, perfect beauties! Sent sealed only 10c., 3 sets 25c. **WESTERN SUPPLY CO., St. Louis, Mo.**

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STAMP Agents and everybody should send for our Grand Outfit for Rubber Stamps. Agents' terms, etc. Big pay. Only 40c. Send at once. **WILSON BROS. Tyrone, Pa.**

TYPEWRITER, \$2.00, postpaid. Practical, cheap, and durable. 20 to 30 words a minute can be written. **GEORGE R. BLAKELY, Bradford, McKean Co., Pa.**

TYPE PRINTING PRESSES. **NATIONAL TYPE CO.** PHILA PA 100 page Book 10c Please mention PLAIN TALK.

COINS. One large JAPANESE TEMPO, prepaid, 10c; three pieces CHINESE CASH MONEY, 10c. **E. W. HARVEY, Sioux Falls, Dak.**

FALSE MUSTACHE any color 10c. 3 for 25c. Goatees 6c. 3 for 15c. Side Whiskers or Full Beards 75c. each. Can't be told from real. Used for theatricals, minstrel, and by Detectives, etc. **W. S. SIMPSON, 263 W. 54th St., N.Y.**

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THE LITTLE FLIRT and Lovers' Guide, 10c., (silver). **FALLS NOVELTY CO., Cuyahoga Falls, O.**

Gaskell's Magazine,

Commencing with the January issue, took the place of the *Penman's Gazette*. A fine portrait of GENERAL LOGAN is January's frontispiece; of PROF. SWING, in February; of JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, in March. Price only \$1.00 a year; single copies, 10 cents.

We give away a handsome Pen and Ink Picture, "Centennial Progress of St. Louis" [Price 50 cents,] size about 2 x 3 ft., to every yearly Subscriber.

Trial trip of three months for 20 cents. January number and the Picture sent on receipt of 20 cents.

INCOMPARABLE!



These pens were first manufactured in small lots for our own and our students' use only. Becoming known among good writers, the demand for them has rapidly increased, until, at present, we send through the mails, postage paid, to all parts of the United States and Canada, over sixteen thousand small boxes a year! They are the smoothest running, the most elastic, and the most durable steel pens ever put on the market, thousands of the most flattering testimonials of their excellence, from professional penmen and business writers everywhere.

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The Orthodactylic Penholder.
A Good Position Made Certain.



The object of this penholder is to compel people to hold their pen correctly. The use of it will reform bad handwriting. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Three for 25 cents.

Young people have long needed a complete and thorough self-teaching System of Penmanship, by means of which at odd-hours, they could acquire a graceful and elegant handwriting at home.

The only System of that kind which has met with any great success is

Gaskell's Compendium of Penmanship.

It consists of four parts—Copy-slips, Book of instructions, Ornamental sheet and case. It is not simply a book. Nobody in the world ever learned to write from a book alone. The compendium package contains a small book, but the exercises for practice are all given on the Copy Sheets, of which there are eighteen, with alphabets. It is designed equally for all ages and stages of advancement; for Ladies and Gentlemen, as also for Girls and Boys. Among the many models for practice it gives:

BOLD BUSINESS WRITING. Consisting of Movement Exercises, Invoices, Notes, Ledger-Headings, Model Signatures, etc., etc.

LADIES' PENMANSHIP Of the most elegant description, as used in Letters, Notes, Invitations, Cards, and Albums.

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All the above are in the form of written and other pen exercises. They are accompanied with a small Book of INSTRUCTIONS, neatly illustrated, containing full directions for acquiring perfect control of the pen, and correctness in form. This combination complete will be mailed to any address, post-paid, for

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Those marked thus *a* are unused; with a *b* used and unused. The column of figures indicate the number of varieties.

HALF DIME SETS.

(Price 5c. each.)	
Austria	10
Austrian Italy	4
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Belgium	6
Brazil	5
Canada	8
Canada Bill	6
Cuba	5
Denmark	6
Egypt	4
Finland	4
France	10
Germany	10
Great Britain	10
Greece	4
a Hamburg	3
Holland	10
Hungary	8
Italy	8
Japan	4
Luxemburg	4
New South Wales	3
New Zealand	3
Norway	6
Prussia	5
Roumania	5
Russia	5
Saxony	4
Servia	4
a Spain	4
Spain	4
Sweden	8
Sweden Official	6
Sweden Unpaid	5
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Turkey	4
Victoria	4
Wurtemberg	5

Five cents. 12 sets for 50 cents; the 37 sets for \$1.40.

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Argentina Republic	4
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a Bavaria	5
Bavaria	12
Bermuda	4
Belgium	8
Brazil	6
Canada	12
Canada Bill	12
Cape of Good Hope	4
Ceylon	4
Chili	3
a Confederate States	3
a Constantinople	3
Cuba	6
Denmark	10
Dutch East Indies	4
East India	6
East India Official	4
Egypt	6
Finland	5
France	18
French Colonies	4
Germany	20
German Telegraph	10
Great Britain	15
Greece	6
a Hamburg	5
a Hamburg Envelope	3
Hanover	4
a Heligoland	4
Holland	12
Hong Kong	4
Italy	10
Italy Official	4
Jamaica	3
Japan	4
Luxemburg	6
Luxemburg Official	3
Mexico	5
Newfoundland	4
New South Wales	4
Norway	8
Peru	4

a Porto Rico	5	Queensland	5
Portugal	5	a Roman States	4
Prussia	8	Roumania	8
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Saxony	7
Servia	5
South Australia	3
a Spain	8
Spain	10
Sweden	10
Sweden Official	5
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Tasmania	4
a Turkey	4
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Ten cents each; 12 sets for \$1.00; the 72 sets for \$5.00, comprising 450 choice stamps with no duplicates. A bargain.

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Austrian Tel. 8 .20	Hungary, '72, com. 6 .15
Baden 6 .30	India, Service 5 .12
a Bavaria, '70 7 .15	Japan 12 .25
a Bergeford 5 .12	Mauritius 9 .50
Brazil 15 .25	Mexico 15 .25
Cape of Good Hope 9 .25	Norway, '67, com. 8 .12
Chili, '67, com. 5 .20	a Roman States 12 .20
Chili 12 .20	Salvador, '77, com. 4 .40
China, '75, com. 3 .35	Sierra Leone 8 .50
Costa Rica, '62, com. 4 .75	Spain 40 .50
Cuba 20 .30	Spain 50 .75
Egypt 8 .20	Sweden, Losen, com. 10 .20
France, Unpaid 14 1.00	Sweden, Official, com. 11 .20
French Colonies 25 .50	Switzerland, Unpaid 7 .20
Gold Coast 6 .35	U. S. Columbia 10 .25

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Var. Price	Var. Price
Postage 20 \$0.10	Unpaid 6 .25
Envelope 20 .10	Revenue 15 .10
Official 10 .15	

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LOHMEYER, A., 933 Milton Place, Baltimore, Md. Lists free. Stamps on approval.

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RISDON, I. W., Cambridgeport, Mass. Send 5c. (stamps) for list and 60 different stamps (nice ones). Agents wanted.

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New Used	New Used
9 Agril, complete, \$3.50	7 War \$.20 \$.10
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9 Navy 2.50	11 " complete 1.00 .75
11 " complete 4.50 4.00	7 Treasury15
10 Post Office, " 2.50 1.25	9 "25
7 State 2.25	10 "50
11 " 1.90 4.50	11 " complete, 3.50 1.25

FOREIGN STAMPS on approval at 35% discount. Send for Price List U. S. Stamps. **M. E. VILES,** Boston, Mass.

ATTENTION!

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25% Commission.

I AM making a specialty of Approval Sheets of U. S. and Foreign Stamps, and desire all honest Collectors and Agents to send for one. Special sheets for beginners and advanced collectors, and a large assortment for Agents. Reference required. Sheets must be returned in 10 days. Enclose stamps for a reply. No postals answered.

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MUST BE SOLD.

My Entire Stock of U. S. and Foreign
Stamps to be closed out regardless
of cost in the next 60 days.

12	Varieties U. S. Columbia	20 cents.
5	" Honduras	20 "
13	" Mexico	28 "
15	" Hong Kong	50 "
*9	" Prince E. Islands	38 "
*8	" Samoa	55 "
*4	" Guatemala '79	40 "
*100	" U.S. Post Office Department	30 "
10	Varieties Am. R. Tel. Co.	25 "
10	" South America	15 "
25	" " "	50 "
8	" Brazil	11 "

This * indicates unused.

PACKET No. ONE

Fifty Stamps, such as Chili, Brazil, Mexico, Cape Hope, &c., only 10c.

PACKET No. TWO

Contains 100 Stamps, such as West Indies, Cape Hope, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Sweden, Hong Kong, &c., only 15 cents.

PACKET No. THREE

Contains 200 Stamps, such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Brazil, Native Rare West Indies, &c., only 25 cents.

PACKET No. FOUR

Contains 200 varieties, no two alike, such as unused Prince E. Isles, Costa Rica, Honduras, Egypt, Bulgaria, San Salvador, Gol, and many others too numerous to mention; only 50 cents, worth \$1.50.

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Contains 500 well assorted stamps, no common ones, but stamps worth from 1 cent to 5 cents. This is a good packet for dealers or collectors to put on sheets and sell 'em for 5 times more than you paid for it. Only \$1.00. Will foot up to \$4.00 by any standard price list.

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Contains the following stamps, viz.:

1	Set, 4 varieties, unused Guatemala, '79.	40 cents.
1	" " " P. E. Islands	38 "
1	" " " Samoa	55 "
1	U. S. 10 cent, " P. O. Dep't.	30 "

Only \$1.30 for the whole Packet, really less than wholesale price.

PACKET No. SEVEN

Contains a superb collection of 300 varieties, no two alike, unused and used, complete sets of Prince Edward Isle, Samoa, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bahamas, St. Vincent, Mozambique, Cape of Good Hope, Orange Free State, Rare U. S. Dep't, Postage and Revenue. Price, postpaid, only \$3.00. Standard list price \$8.00.

PACKET No. EIGHT.

Consists of a collection of 500 varieties of rare used and unused stamps, from nearly every stamp-issuing country on the globe. There are no two stamps alike, and it is by far the cheapest packet that ever was or will be sold again. It is an elegant collection by itself. It is a cheap packet for either dealer or collector. Price only \$5.00.

A SCOTT'S INTERNATIONAL ALBUM, worth \$1.50 will be given away with every eighth purchase.

100	well assorted Stamps,	\$.08
500	" " " "	.18
1000	" " " "	.23
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MICROSCOPIC Photographs. Though only a speck to the naked eye, they appear as magnified through the little microscope, which comes in the shape of a watch charm, as large as ordinary cabinet photographs. Price by mail, 10 cents, 4 for 30 cents.
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